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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____ .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle,* 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-32* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-32* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

    If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of

matter or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefore, subject to the conditions and

requirements of this title.

1.   Claims 25-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed

to non-statutory subject matter.

The claimed invention is a computer related invention. The Computer-Implemented

Invention Guidelines issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office describe the procedures for

examining such inventions.

The first step is to determine whether the invention as defined by the claims falls within

one of the three following categories of unpatentable subject matter: (1) Functional descriptive

material such as a data structure *per se* or a computer program *per se*, (2) Non-functional

descriptive material such as music, literary works or pure data, embodied on a computer readable

medium; or (3) A natural phenomenon such as energy or magnetism. The invention as defined

by the claims is not a natural phenomenon or pure data, however, it is a computer program per

se, which does not mount/store on any computer-readable medium; therefore, these claims are

rejected for non-statutory basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed
in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for

patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1.   Claims 1-4, 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shima (U.S. Patent No. 6149323).

2.   Regarding claim 1, Shima discloses an information processing apparatus (host computer, col. 1, line 9) for producing print data, which is interpretable by a printer (col. 1, line 9), based on document data produced by an application, comprising:

(1) combined settings registration means (a setting device for receiving a setting value specifying a print mode, col. 2, lines 46-48) for combining a plurality of setting items (paper orientation, page size, resolution, and color conversion, col. 5, lines 10-15) separated into a plurality of setting sheets into a combined setting and registering the combined setting in a combined setting list (the names of the stored setting values can be displayed in the form of a list (or a table), enabling the users to readily select a desired setting value, col. 3, lines 17-19 and Fig. 4, and col. 7, lines 40-49) when printing setting is performed to produce the printing data;

(2) selection means (selector, col. 2, lines 49-52 and keyboard, Fig. 4) for selecting one of the combined settings registered in said combine setting list (Faa.EJL & Fa2.EJL, Fig. 4);

(3) display control means for controlling display of all the setting items ("Fa1.EJL", Fig. 4, col. 5, lines 35-40) of one combined setting in a plurality of setting sheets when the one combined setting is selected by said selection means.

3.   Regarding claim 2, Shima further discloses an information processing apparatus further comprising: input means (keyboard, col. 5, line 3) for inputting a name (the newly determined setting value is assigned a name and is stored in a hard disk, col. 5, lnies 3-5) of the combined settings, wherein said combined setting registration means registers the combined setting in association with the name inputted by said input means.

4.   Regarding claim 3, Shima further discloses an information processing apparatus, wherein the combined setting can be registered by said combined setting registrations means from the plurality of setting sheets (resolution, paper orientation, page size settings sheets into a new setting value, col. 5, lines 10-20).

5:      Regarding claim 4, Shima further discloses an information processing apparatus, wherein said printer is controlled by a printer driver ("printer driver", a device capable of activating or controlling a printer, col. 2, lines 25-29) which includes said combined setting registration means (Fig. 2, col. 4, lines 6-20).

6.   Regarding claim 6, Shima further discloses an information processing apparatus further comprising name assigning means for, when the setting items are changed (Fig. 3), displaying a name of the original combined setting and a change to the original combined setting in a recognizable manner (Fig. 3 shows S6, wherein if none of the setting values are selected from the setting values list, then the users proceed to generate a new setting value. The new setting value and old setting value are displayed on Fig. 4, i.e. "Fa2.EJL" and "Fa1.EJL", col. 7, lines 16-22).

7.   Regarding claim 7, Shima further discloses an information processing apparatus, wherein

a setting item of the combined setting has a registration function (a list of names of the document

files corresponding to the conventional setting value values registered in the table is indicated on

a display, col. 5, lines 28-39), and when detailed setting of the setting item is changed (if the user

decides that the contents of the selected setting value "B1" are unacceptable, the user can enter a

print instruction by inputting a new setting value from the input device, col. 7, lines 16-34) at a

time when the changed detailed setting is not registered in the setting item, said name assigning

means adds a temporary option (printer driver decides whether the user has selected an option for

newly determining a setting value or not, col. 4, lines 65-67 and col. 5, lines 1-9 and Fig. 3) to a

selection list and assigns the temporary option (paper orientation, col. 5, lines 1-20) to setting

item set in the combined setting.

8.   Claims 9-12, 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shima

(U.S. Patent No. 6149323).

9.   Regarding claim 9, Shima discloses an information processing method (printer control

method, Title) for producing print data, which is interpretable by a printer (col. 1, line 9), based

on document data produced by an application, comprising the steps of:

        (1) combined settings registration step (a setting device for receiving a setting value

specifying a print mode, col. 2, lines 46-48) for combining a plurality of setting items (paper

orientation, page size, resolution, and color conversion, col. 5, lines 10-15) separated into a

plurality of setting sheets into a combined setting and registering the combined setting in a combined setting list (the names of the stored setting values can be displayed in the form of a list (or a table), enabling the users to readily select a desired setting value, col. 3, lines 17-19 and Fig. 4, and col. 7, lines 40-49) when printing setting is performed to produce the printing data;

(2) a selection step (selects by using a selector, col. 2, lines 49-52 and keyboard, Fig. 4) for selecting one of the combined settings registered in said combine setting list (Faa.EJL & Fa2.EJL, Fig. 4);

(3) a display control step for controlling display of all the setting items ("Fal.EJL", Fig. 4, col. 5, lines 35-40) of one combined setting in a plurality of setting sheets when the one combined setting is selected by said selection means.

10.   Regarding claim 10, Shima further discloses an information processing method further comprising: input step (input using a keyboard, col. 5, line 3) for inputting a name (the newly determined setting value is assigned a name and is stored in a hard disk, col. 5, lnies 3-5) of the combined settings, wherein said combined setting registration means registers the combined setting in association with the name inputted by said input means.

11.   Regarding claim 11, Shima further discloses an information processing method, wherein the combined setting can be registered by said combined setting registrations step from the plurality of setting sheets (resolution, paper orientation, page size settings sheets into a new setting value, col. 5, lines 10-20).

12.   Regarding claim 12, Shima further discloses an information processing method, wherein said combined setting registration step is included in a printing setting step executed by a printer driver ("printer driver", a device capable of activating or controlling a printer, col. 2, lines 25-29) of an information processing apparatus.

13.   Regarding claim 14, Shima further discloses an information processing method further comprising name assigning step for, when the setting items are changed (Fig. 3), displaying a name of the original combined setting and a change to the original combined setting in a recognizable manner (Fig. 3 shows S6, wherein if none of the setting values are selected from the setting values list, then the users proceed to generate a new setting value. The new setting value and old setting value are displayed on Fig. 4, i.e. "Fa2.EJL" and "Fa1.EJL", col. 7, lines 16-22).

14.   Regarding claim 15, Shima further discloses an information processing method, wherein a setting item of the combined setting has a registration function (a list of names of the document files corresponding to the conventional setting value values registered in the table is indicated on a display, col. 5, lines 28-39), and when detailed setting of the setting item is changed (if the user decides that the contents of the selected setting value "B1" are unacceptable, the user can enter a print instruction by inputting a new setting value from the input device, col. 7, lines 16-34) at a time when the changed detailed setting is not registered in the setting item, said name assigning means adds a temporary option (printer driver decides whether the user has selected an option for newly determining a setting value or not, col. 4, lines 65-67 and col. 5, lines 1-9 and Fig. 3) to a

selection list and assigns the temporary option (paper orientation, col. 5, lines 1-20) to setting item set in the combined setting.

15.   Claims 17-20, 22-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shima (U.S. Patent No. 6149323).

16.   Regarding claim 17, Shima discloses a storage medium (RAM, col. 6, lines 17-35) storing a printer driver program (col. 2, lines 25-44) for producing printing data, which is interpretable by a printer (col. 1, line 9), based on document data produced by an application, comprising:

        (1) combined settings registration step (a setting device for receiving a setting value specifying a print mode, col. 2, lines 46-48) for combining a plurality of setting items (paper orientation, page size, resolution, and color conversion, col. 5, lines 10-15) separated into a plurality of setting sheets into a combined setting and registering the combined setting in a combined setting list (the names of the stored setting values can be displayed in the form of a list (or a table), enabling the users to readily select a desired setting value, col. 3, lines 17-19 and Fig. 4, and col. 7, lines 40-49) when printing setting is performed to produce the printing data;

        (2) a selection step (selects by using a selector, col. 2, lines 49-52 and keyboard, Fig. 4) for selecting one of the combined settings registered in said combine setting list (Faa.EJL & Fa2.EJL, Fig. 4);

(3) a display control step for controlling display of all the setting items ("Fa1.EJL", Fig.

4, col. 5, lines 35-40) of one combined setting in a plurality of setting sheets when the one

combined setting is selected by said selection means.

17.   Regarding claim 18, Shima further discloses a storage medium further comprising: input

step (input using a keyboard, col. 5, line 3) for inputting a name (the newly determined setting

value is assigned a name and is stored in a hard disk, col. 5, lnies 3-5) of the combined settings,

wherein said combined setting registration means registers the combined setting in association

with the name inputted by said input means.

18.   Regarding claim 19, Shima further discloses a storage medium, wherein the combined

setting can be registered by said combined setting registrations step from the plurality of setting

sheets (resolution, paper orientation, page size settings sheets into a new setting value, col. 5,

lines 10-20).

19.   Regarding claim 20, Shima further discloses a storage medium, wherein said combined

setting registration step is included in a printing setting step executed by a printer driver ("printer

driver", a device capable of activating or controlling a printer, col. 2, lines 25-29) of an

information processing apparatus.

20.   Regarding claim 22, Shima further discloses a storage medium further comprising name

assigning step for, when the setting items are changed (Fig. 3), displaying a name of the original

combined setting and a change to the original combined setting in a recognizable manner (Fig. 3

shows S6, wherein if none of the setting values are selected from the setting values list, then the

users proceed to generate a new setting value. The new setting value and old setting value are

displayed on Fig. 4, i.e. "Fa2.EJL" and "Fa1.EJL", col. 7, lines 16-22).

21.   Regarding claim 23, Shima further discloses an information processing method, wherein

a setting item of the combined setting has a registration function (a list of names of the document

files corresponding to the conventional setting value values registered in the table is indicated on

a display, col. 5, lines 28-39), and when detailed setting of the setting item is changed (if the user

decides that the contents of the selected setting value "B1" are unacceptable, the user can enter a

print instruction by inputting a new setting value from the input device, col. 7, lines 16-34) at a

time when the changed detailed setting is not registered in the setting item, said name assigning

means adds a temporary option (printer driver decides whether the user has selected an option for

newly determining a setting value or not, col. 4, lines 65-67 and col. 5, lines 1-9 and Fig. 3) to a

selection list and assigns the temporary option (paper orientation, col. 5, lines 1-20) to setting

item set in the combined setting.

22.   Claims 25-28, 30-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shima

(U.S. Patent No. 6149323).

23.   Regarding claim 25, Shima discloses a printer driver program (a computer program used for carrying out the present invention in a computer can be installed or loaded into the computer via various mediums such as a disk storage, semiconductor memory, or a communications line, col. 3, lines 36-39) for producing printing data, which is interpretable by a printer (col. 1, line 9), based on document data produced by an application, said printer driver program comprising the following program code:

(1) combined settings registration program code (setting value specifying a print mode, col. 2, lines 46-48) for combining a plurality of setting items (paper orientation, page size, resolution, and color conversion, col. 5, lines 10-15) separated into a plurality of setting sheets into a combined setting and registering the combined setting in a combined setting list (the names of the stored setting values can be displayed in the form of a list (or a table), enabling the users to readily select a desired setting value, col. 3, lines 17-19 and Fig. 4, and col. 7, lines 40-49) when printing setting is performed to produce the printing data;

(2) a selection program code (selects by using a selector, col. 2, lines 49-52 and keyboard, Fig. 4) for causing a user to select one of the combined settings registered in said combine setting list (Faa.EJL & Fa2.EJL, Fig. 4);

(3) a display control program code for controlling display of all the setting items ("Fa1.EJL", Fig. 4, col. 5, lines 35-40) of one combined setting in a plurality of setting sheets when the one combined setting is selected by said selection means.

24.   Regarding claim 26, Shima further discloses a printer driver program further comprising: input program code (input via a keyboard, col. 5, line 3) for inputting a name (the newly

determined setting value is assigned a name and is stored in a hard disk, col. 5, lnies 3-5) of the combined settings, wherein said combined setting registration means registers the combined setting in association with the name inputted by said input program code.

25.   Regarding claim 27, Shima further discloses a printer driver program, wherein the combined setting can be registered by said combined setting registrations program code from the plurality of setting sheets (resolution, paper orientation, page size settings sheets into a new setting value, col. 5, lines 10-20).

26.   Regarding claim 28, Shima further discloses a printer driver program, wherein said combined setting registration program code is included in a printing setting step executed by a printer driver ("printer driver", a device capable of activating or controlling a printer, col. 2, lines 25-29) of an information processing apparatus.

27.   Regarding claim 30, Shima further discloses a printer driver program further comprising name assigning step for, when the setting items are changed (Fig. 3), displaying a name of the original combined setting and a change to the original combined setting in a recognizable manner (Fig. 3 shows S6, wherein if none of the setting values are selected from the setting values list, then the users proceed to generate a new setting value. The new setting value and old setting value are displayed on Fig. 4, i.e. "Fa2.EJL" and "Fa1.EJL", col. 7, lines 16-22).

28.   Regarding claim 31, Shima further discloses a printer driver program, wherein a setting

item of the combined setting has a registration function (a list of names of the document files

corresponding to the conventional setting value values registered in the table is indicated on a

display, col. 5, lines 28-39), and when detailed setting of the setting item is changed (if the user

decides that the contents of the selected setting value "B1" are unacceptable, the user can enter a

print instruction by inputting a new setting value from the input device, col. 7, lines 16-34) at a

time when the changed detailed setting is not registered in the setting item, said name assigning

means adds a temporary option (printer driver decides whether the user has selected an option for

newly determining a setting value or not, col. 4, lines 65-67 and col. 5, lines 1-9 and Fig. 3) to a

selection list and assigns the temporary option (paper orientation, col. 5, lines 1-20) to setting

item set in the combined setting.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

29.   Claims 5, 13, 21, 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shima

as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Hirose (JP 408152985A).

30.   Regarding claim 5, the Shima reference as described in claim 1 above, does not disclose

expressly an information processing apparatus, wherein the registered combined setting is usable

by different printer drivers.

Hirose discloses an information processing apparatus (printer system, title), wherein

printer's setting (constitution, Abstract) is usable by different printer drivers (Abstract).

Shima and Hirose are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor for

information processing apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art

at the time of the invention was made to modify Shima's information processing apparatus by

the teachings of Hirose because of a following reason: (1) to allow documents to be printed

without having to reset the print mode settings when various documents are printed in a later

time; thereby, reduces time and saves cost (Shima, col. 2, lines 15-20).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Hirose with Shima to obtain the

invention as specified in claim 5.

31.   Regarding claim 13, the Shima reference as described in claim 9 above, does not disclose

an information processing method, wherein the registered combined setting is usable by different

printer drivers.

Hirose discloses an information processing method, wherein printer's setting

(constitution, Abstract) is usable by different printer drivers (Abstract).

Shima and Hirose are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor for

information processing apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art

at the time of the invention was made to modify Shima's information processing apparatus by

the teachings of Hirose because of a following reason: (1) to allow documents to be printed without having to reset the print mode settings when various documents are printed in a later time; thereby, reduces time and saves cost (Shima, col. 2, lines 15-20).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Hirose with Shima to obtain the invention as specified in claim 13.

32.   Regarding claim 21, the Shima reference as described in claim 17 above, does not disclose the registered combined setting is usable by different printer drivers.

Hirose discloses an information processing method (printer system, title), wherein printer's setting (constitution, Abstract) is usable by different printer drivers (Abstract).

Shima and Hirose are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor for information processing apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Shima's information processing apparatus by the teachings of Hirose because of a following reason: (1) to allow documents to be printed without having to reset the print mode settings when various documents are printed in a later time; thereby, reduces time and saves cost (Shima, col. 2, lines 15-20).
Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Hirose with Shima to obtain the invention as specified in claim 21.

33.   Regarding claim 29, the Shima reference as described in claim 25 above, does not disclose expressly an information processing apparatus, wherein the registered combined setting is usable by different printer drivers.

Hirose discloses printer's setting (constitution, Abstract) is usable by different printer drivers (Abstract).

Shima and Hirose are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor for information processing apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Shima's information processing apparatus by the teachings of Hirose because of a following reason: (1) to allow documents to be printed without having to reset the print mode settings when various documents are printed in a later time; thereby, reduces time and saves cost (Shima, col. 2, lines 15-20).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Hirose with Shima to obtain the invention as specified in claim 29.

34.   Claims 8, 16, 24, 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shima as applied to claim1 above, and further in view of Takahashi et al (U.S. 6424429).

35.   Regarding claim 8, the Shima reference as described in claim 1 above, does not disclose expressly an information processing apparatus, wherein the setting item having a registration function is a stamp setting for adding a stamp to the document data.

Takahashi discloses an information processing apparatus (computer, Fig. 1), wherein the setting item having a registration function is a stamp setting (setting data for a print mode includes "stamp setting" such as a message "Urgent" onto the document data, col. 15, lines 19-25) for adding a stamp to the document data.

Shima and Takahashi are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor for information processing apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Shima's information processing apparatus by the teachings of Takahashi because of the following reasons: (1) to allow documents to be printed without having to reset the print mode settings when various documents are printed in a later time; thereby, reduces time and saves cost (Shima, col. 2, lines 15-20); (2) adding a stamp message "Urgent" to the document increases the importance of the document, allowing the users to respond to the document promptly and in a timely manner.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Takahashi with Shima to obtain the invention as specified in claim 8.

36.   Regarding claim 16, the Shima reference as described in claim 9 above, does not disclose expressly an information processing method, wherein the setting item having a registration function is a stamp setting for adding a stamp to the document data.

Takahashi discloses the setting item having a registration function is a stamp setting (setting data for a print mode includes "stamp setting" such as a message "Urgent" onto the document data, col. 15, lines 19-25) for adding a stamp to the document data.

Shima and Takahashi are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor for information processing apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Shima's information processing apparatus by the teachings of Takahashi because of the following reasons: (1) to allow documents to be printed without having to reset the print mode settings when various documents are printed in a

later time; thereby, reduces time and saves cost (Shima, col. 2, lines 15-20); (2) adding a stamp

message "Urgent" to the document increases the importance of the document, allowing the users

to respond to the document promptly and in a timely manner.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Takahashi with Shima to obtain the invention

as specified in claim 16.

37.   Regarding claim 24, the Shima reference as described in claim 17 above, does not

disclose the setting item having a registration function is a stamp setting for adding a stamp to

the document data.

Takahashi discloses the setting items having a registration function is a stamp setting

(setting data for a print mode includes "stamp setting" such as a message "Urgent" onto the

document data, col. 15, lines 19-25) for adding a stamp to the document data.

Shima and Takahashi are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor

for information processing apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the

art at the time of the invention was made to modify Shima's information processing apparatus by

the teachings of Takahashi because of the following reasons: (1) to allow documents to be

printed without having to reset the print mode settings when various documents are printed in a

later time; thereby, reduces time and saves cost (Shima, col. 2, lines 15-20); (2) adding a stamp

message "Urgent" to the document increases the importance of the document, allowing the users

to respond to the document promptly and in a timely manner.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Takahashi with Shima to obtain the invention as specified in claim 24.

38.   Regarding claim 32, the Shima reference as described in claim 25 above, does not disclose the setting item having a registration function is a stamp setting for adding a stamp to the document data.

Takahashi discloses the setting item having a registration function is a stamp setting (setting data for a print mode includes "stamp setting" such as a message "Urgent" onto the document data, col. 15, lines 19-25) for adding a stamp to the document data.

Shima and Takahashi are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor for information processing apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Shima's information processing apparatus by the teachings of Takahashi because of the following reasons: (1) to allow documents to be printed without having to reset the print mode settings when various documents are printed in a later time; thereby, reduces time and saves cost (Shima, col. 2, lines 15-20); (2) adding a stamp message "Urgent" to the document increases the importance of the document, allowing the users to respond to the document promptly and in a timely manner.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Takahashi with Shima to obtain the invention as specified in claim 32.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent No. 6445468 to Tsai discloses stamp setting for adding a stamp to the document data as recited in claim 8.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thierry L Pham whose telephone number is (703) 305-1897. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30 AM - 5:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K Moore can be reached on (703)308-7452. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-3900.

Thierry L. Pham

Sept. 24, 2003

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